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Duxbury Clipper

Cream of the Crop

Farfar's named top ice cream shop

By KEITH L. MARTIN

Boston magazine has put together a list of their top 25 "beloved" ice cream shops in greater Boston and one of their frozen favorites is right here in Duxbury.

In the July issue, now on newsstands, Saint George Street's Farfar's Danish Ice Cream Shop is listed right alongside local deities Brigham's and Ben & Jerry's as the best of the best.

"It's just terrific," said Farfar's owner Andra Carleton. "There aren't many homemade ice cream shops anymore, so to be on this list just blows my mind."

Carleton learned of the honor this April after staffers at the magazine called her to say that "undercover" reporters had come to town to sample the store's flavors for the lucrative list.

For the past 26 years, Carleton has operated Farfar's, named after the man who taught her all she knows about the sweet treat: her father, Walter Simonsen. Dubbed "farfar," the Danish word for grandfather, Simonsen worked for H.P. Hood in the 1960s and passed his knowledge of flavors onto



Brendan McGuirk prepares a fresh batch of coffee ice cream for the busy July 4th weekend.

something or call us for directions because they've seen us listed."

With the top 25 list coming on the heels of a busy Fourth of July weekend, Carleton hopes that they'll hear more feedback from both readers and ice cream aficionados.

"I hope to hear from people who've been to a number of the places listed or all of them as I think some will make this their 'summer project' to visit us all and we love it," she said. "I'd like to hear of their other experiences and what they think of us as well."

Since hitting the magazine

his children, even creating the base flavor the shop is still known for today, Danish Sweet Cream.

In their praise of Farfar's, *Boston* notes Simonsen's influence and the fact that the "Danish" designation means high butterfat content, remarking the combination is "delicious."

"It's special that they mentioned dad because he taught us everything we know," said Carleton. "It's his formulas and recipes from 26 years ago that we still use and they obviously still work."

The only thing that has changed, said Carleton, is the flavor choices on Farfar's menu, prompting such eclectic mixes as Hawaiian Delight (vanilla with mango, pineapple and banana), and Rocky Beach (butter-pecan with chocolate chips, salted peanuts and mini-marshmallows), which are both cited as "exotic flavors" by *Boston*.

No stranger to the magazine's praise, Farfar's is a three-time selection as "Best of Boston" for ice cream south of the city and Carleton expects the latest "beloved" label to prompt a lot of new visitors to Saint George Street.

"When we are named Best of Boston, we get people stopping in going to and coming from the Cape," she said. "We don't always know it's the magazine that sent them, but sometimes people say

shelves last week, the distinction has boosted the spirits of not only the owner, but also her staff, whom she credits as part of the shop's success.

"All of us are really proud," she said. "It makes us feel really good to stand out and...feel we definitely deserve to be in this group *Boston* selected."

Carleton knows that the man who started it all would also have a big smile on his face to be mentioned alongside some other great ice cream shops.

"Dad would be so proud," she said. "He wanted us to be successful, so anything like this makes me proud of him and I know he'd be happy with the way we've run the business properly."

Customers also agree that Farfar's stands out from the rest, including Old Cove Road's Yvonne Ott, who is a frequent customer of the shop and their coffee frappes.

"It doesn't surprise me that they were listed because it's the best ice cream around," she said. "It just tastes so good."

Last week, Ott was accompanied by two-year-old Brooke Chandler, as tough a critic as those at *Boston* magazine. She also gave Farfar's a thumbs-up based on one simple characteristic after finishing a dish of peppermint stick ice cream.

"It's pink," she said. "I like pink."